

T News Letter **TDARS**

G3ZME
G6ZME

TELFORD AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

www.TDARS.org.uk

FOUNDED 1969

www.TelfordHamfest.co.uk

Issue 291

50th Anniversary 1969-2019

Nov./Decem. 2019



www.TDARS.org.uk

Programme

www.telfordhamfest.org.uk



- November 13 50th TDARS ANNIVERSARY MEAL at Holiday Inn, Telford. c/o M0TBQ
(Club HQ Closed)
- November 20 Surplus Sale— Members' sales. 10% to club funds
- November 27 Winter Projects—Bring your ideas along
- December 4 Committee Meeting
- December 11 Christmas Meal @ the Grazing Cow Pub, Lawley. Club HQ Closed
(book with G0UFE)
- December 18 Informal—social evening. Share your current project, working or not!
- December 25, January 1st NO MEETINGS. Net 144.6 MHz New Year's day at 8pm.
- January 8 Committee Meeting
- January 15 Winter Projects—Follow Up and assistance
- January 22 10 Minute Topics - or even 2 minutes - by Members
- January 29 Bowls Evening with the LWVH Bowls Club, main hall.
- February 5 Committee Meeting
- February 12 Out and About 2020. What, Where and When for portable operations
- February 19 Guest Speaker—to be confirmed
- February 26 Under—a—Fiver Construction competition

For Amateur Radio Exam Training—changes pending November 2019
For Morse Training and Morse Proficiency Tests Martyn G3UKV or Eric M0KZB.
For Equipment Loans & Returns contact Don M0TBQ.
Radio Amateur Exams- Latest: www.tdars.org.uk/html/training.html

VILLAGE HALL, MALTHOUSE BANK, LITTLE WENLOCK, TELFORD, SHROPSHIRE. TF6 5BG

Editorial

GB50TEL was carried over from 2018 (celebrating 50 years of Telford as a New Town) into 2019 from a couple of locations. The Special Contest Call G3Z was renewed for another 5 years as we met its requirements, and of course the 4 microwave beacons at LWVH, together with GB3TF voice/digi repeater just kept on going. A couple of shiny bright new banners were aired at various times, including their presence at the Little Wenlock Annual Fair in July.

Then there was the momentous decision to move the Telford HamFest, and the G-QRP club Social/Buildathon to its new location at Harper Adams University near Newport in September.

To finish, on a rather thoughtful note, I must mention the passing of many Members of the Society over the 50 years of our existence—so perhaps worth casting your eyes over the “Silent Keys” listings on our TDARS website. (‘about TDARS’ heading). Many of those mentioned played a vital part in the on-going success of the club, and I thank them for their numerous contributions in past years.

MIV

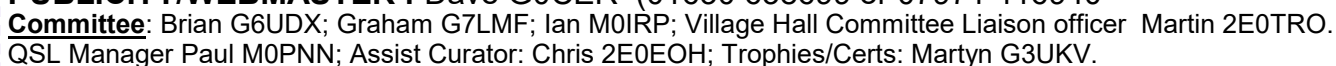
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When they're gone, they're gone

CHAIRMAN: Simon Bird G0UFE (01952 401018)

CURATOR : Don Nicholls M0TBQ (01952 411680)



Qtc: News & Information



TDARS MEETINGS EVERY WEDNESDAY AT LITTLE WENLOCK VILLAGE HALL UNLESS INDICATED OTHERWISE ON THE FRONT PAGE PROGRAMME. ROOM BOOKED FROM 7PM - 10PM. MEETINGS USUALLY COMMENCE AT 8PM

Please note: A current membership card may be required to borrow TDARS equipment. Please return borrowed equipment promptly .

As noted elsewhere, the move to Harper Adams University Campus in September was a huge success for **Telford HamFest and G-QRP Buildathon**. More space: Unlimited free parking area : Better lighting : Easier road access : One level occupancy : Much improved catering. In fact there were only a couple of minor difficulties—both of which were caused by the level of attendance. The outdoor stands gave us trader vehicle access problems as they arrived to set up, even before the opening time of 7:30am; a couple were so impatient that they left in a huff—but it was their loss, as the other traders were quite satisfied by the end of the day. Next year, we shall set them up in the area next to where Simon S.(2E0MRS) had his military vehicles positioned—where there is far more circulation space, and in fact we will be able to offer 'car boot sale' selling space for the first time next year.

The other minor problem was circulation space in a few places within the halls. This was caused by some table placements needing to be changed to ensure all exits were kept clear, and also some late bookings that made available space at a premium. Ho humm . . .

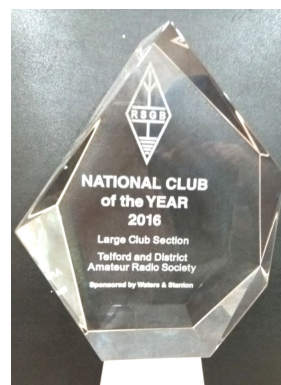
The G-QRP guys were very happy with arrangements, including the improved catering and available bar on Saturday evening, the overnight accommodation and the lecture room space. They had an attractive club stand on Sunday. As always, nothing remains quite the same, and next year has its own challenges, which will become clearer in due course. But the date is booked at HAU—**September 5/6th 2020.**



Early arrivals ...



Outdoor stands



telfordhams



WAB Stand & Heather



Busy bees at the Buildathon



Late arrival at Buildathon ?



G3JKX — GB4THF Talk-In Station



At the RSGB annual Convention in September, TDARS members collected the G5BY Trophy as winners of the “Mix and Match” Section of VHF NFD in July. Not many members were available that day, but here are Dave G0CER, Paul G8AQA and Heather M0HMO receiving the award from the RSGB President Dave Wilson, M0OBW.

Heather also received an Award for her outstanding software suite used in a Rpi based digital Amateur TV program which has been widely adopted, and took more than a year to complete.



At the same event, David M0YDH received a Judges' merit award for his Digital ATV system. He entered two items.

Here's a shot of David demonstrating some of his extensive ATV kit.

The TDARS Yahoo online Reflector Group has sent out warnings that it will close facilities in December, so the decision was taken to establish a **new TDARS Reflector using the groups.io facilities**. The Yahoo Group was set up in 2000, and can be unpredictable at times—with longish delays and anomalies. There were 79 members on the old group, but this included many duplicates (one person has 6 entries !) At the time of writing, 27 Friends and Members have joined the replacement **groups.io** facility, with more planning to join. If you already subscribe to any group in 'groups.io', it only requires searching and adding TDARS to your existing group(s), but if you're new to 'groups.io' you will need to first become a subscriber (<https://groups.io/register>) which just requires your e-mail address and a password. No ads or hassle. Then search for 'tdars' and request to join. There will be a delay for the owner to approve membership to this 'private' group, but if all OK, you will get a confirmation of membership. It's very useful for circulating TDARS info and updates etc. For the time being, both reflectors operate, but in due course tdars at Yahoo will be closed down.

The **TDARS 50th Anniversary Meal** at Holiday Inn takes place on Wednesday 13th November. Bookings have closed, with about 30 signed up—a lot less than for the 25th anniversary in 1994, when bookings exceeded 50 at the Wrekin View pub. It was the peak of the CB era and amateur radio was probably at its peak. Photos and report next Newsletter.

Thanks for Newsletter input this time:

**Paul G8AQA, Dave G0CER, Dave G4EIX, Heather M0HMO,
David M0YDH, Graham G7LMF, Bob M0RJS**

**Next edition January / February 2020
Please keep it coming—contributors make the difference!**

In September, Paul M0PLA gave a fascinating presentation describing his European tour with numerous SOTA activations from Belgian, French and German summits. [See last Newsletter report]. Michelle initially was not that keen on the idea of her husband going to strange locations to 'play radio', but as the days passed, she became nearly as enthusiastic as Paul himself. (well—that's what he told us)



Here's Graham's report:-

Scores on the doors are as follows:

Beavers = 16

Cubs = 19

Scouts = 22

Explorers = 6

Total Young People = 63

These youngsters were from 7 different groups (out of 16 in the District)

Leaders, TDARS and parents = 27. Total 90

Saturday - 49 visitors and 38 radio contacts made (25 on 80m, 13 on 2m)

Sunday - 41 visitors and 16 radio contacts made (7 on 80m, 9 on 2m)

Total - 90 visitors and 54 contacts made.

We made radio contact with 17 other scout groups including Gilwell Park and Bangor and most of our youngsters talked to scouts around the country.

All radio contacts where within the UK with the furthest being Barrow-in-Furness and Hartlepool in the north, Margate in the east, Cornwall in the south and Anglesey in the west.

Once again, many thanks for all of your help. " *Graham G7LMF (photos overleaf >>>)*

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JOTA 2019—Market Drayton Scout HQ
October 19th / 20th.



Everyone present was of the opinion that it was all worthwhile, and we'll hopefully be back in October 2020.

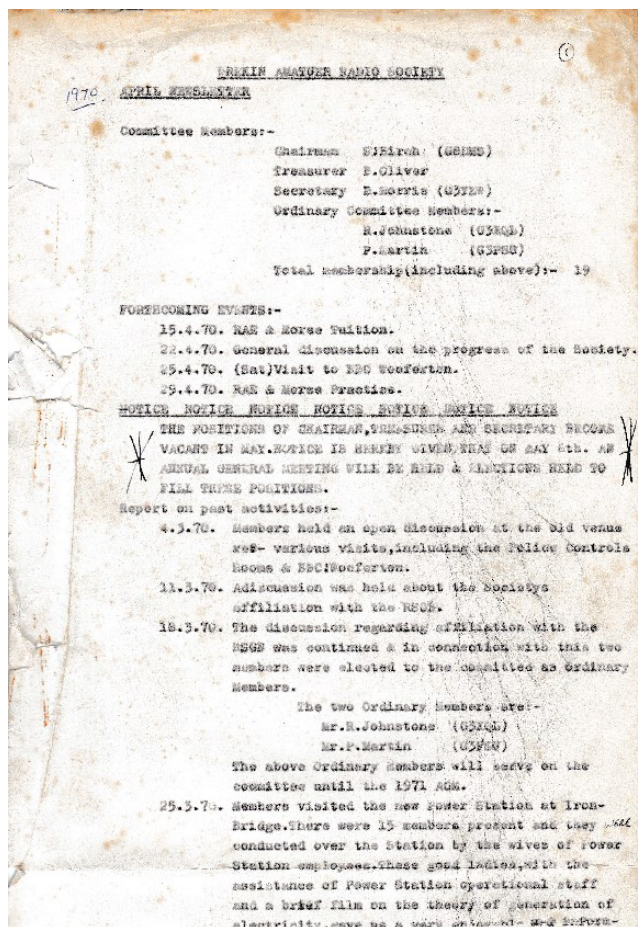


Several (but not enough . . .!) members have sent in entries to the **UKAC series of contests**, that take place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings throughout the year. They include Dave G0CER, Don M0TBQ, Martyn G3UKV, Paul G8AQA and Chris 2E0YYB. As a result, with just a few weeks to go, TDARS is placed 20th of 35 Local clubs listed (as of 5 Nov.). Despite entries on all 9 bands available, results are down compared with 2018, so we need more participants on any VHF/SHF band from 6 metres to 3cm before the end of the year.

FOR SALE: The committee have decided to purchase a new **Icom 6700**, the latest 144/432/1296 MHz all-mode Transceiver. This is a replacement for the previous model IC910H transceiver. As the club already owns two **IC910** rigs, it has been decided to sell one of them. As usual, the committee give preference to any TDARS member who would like to purchase this transceiver, at a competitive rate—say around £550. The available rig does not have the 23cm (1296MHz) module fitted, although these appear on the usual s/h market from time to time if required. It is in very good condition, with 144/432MHz (100/75 watt O/P) all-mode capability. Offers to Simon 'UFE or Don 'TBQ or anyone else on the committee.

The club has joined 18 midland clubs for the **Midland GMT Activity Award** scheme launched by Solihull ARS. It runs now until the end of February 2020, with the aim of increasing activity, especially on VHF, in the local area. Basically you keep a log of stations in the wider midland area, and every participant has a unique club ID Code. Ours is TEL, Salop club is SRT, Wolverhampton is WOL etc. Each member then has a serial number, so for example, Mike G3JKX is TEL07. Scoring is 1 point for QSO with a fellow club member, 2 for QSO with a member of another midland club, and 10 for working the club-call station. Only work a station once per band. Full details here:- <https://solihullradioclub.co.uk/award> . Logs will be submitted after the scheme finishes next March. There will be an overall award + each local club top-scorer. Apply for your unique ID code to Martyn G3UKV, and join the party.

From the past . . . 1969-2019



The very first Newsletter—March 1970. Wrekin A.R.S. Not easy to read, but lists Chairman Steve Birch G8DMS, Treasurer Brian Oliver G8DQQ, Secretary Dave Morris G3YEW, Committee: Ray Johnstone G3XQL, Pete Martin G3PSU. Membership total 19. Meetings held at Ketley Bank Community Centre.

Items include Affiliation to RSGB, visit to the new Ironbridge Power Station, visit to BBC Wooferton and also a Police Control room.

The first AGM was booked for May 6th that year.

On the following (final) page it was noted that some Members had not paid their Subscriptions to the Society, and in future, all subscriptions MUST be paid by 1st March annually !

The Society became Telford & District ARS in March 1974, and below is the 153rd Newsletter front-page celebrating the Club's 25th Year in existence—April 1994. 30 present at the AGM.

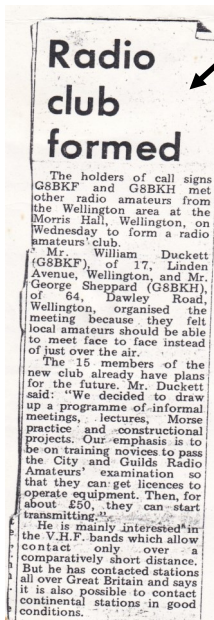
Chairman Dave G4EIX, V-Chairman Paul G2RSA, Secretary Geoff 2E1BUW, Treasurer Jim G8UGL, Curator Brian G6UDX, Editor Martyn G3UKV, Committee: Phil 2E1AGS, Tony G8PAW, Eric G7KZB, Dave G7PNO. Assist. Curator Robin G1MHU, PRO Bob G7BWQ, QSL manager John 2E1BEW. Meetings held at the Dawley Bank Community Centre.



This photo (left) dates back to 1952—the original Wellington A.R. Club, under a different Constitution. Members included George Shepherd G8BKH, Jef Bagley G3FHL, Chas Tranter G3BQQ, Peter Ross G3FLD, Bill Bishton G3DGE, Derick Wright G3HRN and others.

And this Shropshire Star article was published in March 1969. It records George G8BKH and Bill Duckett G8BKF arranged a meeting to form a new local Radio Society at the Morris Hall in Wellington. 15 members signed up. The exact date is not included, but it was the Wrekin A.R.S.

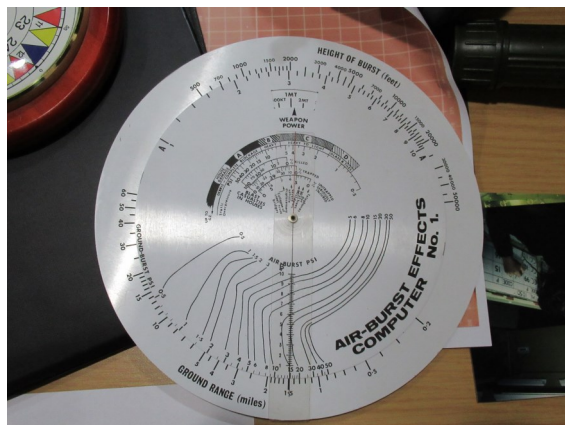
1995 was an exceptional year . . .



The talk and presentation about the Shropshire Royal Observer Corps by Huw Roberts was very well received, and a possible visit to the remaining cold-war bunker at Cold Hatton (north of Wellington) maybe possible in the spring. Ex-ROC member Aled, G0UCI was also in the audience



Huw holding the long-service 'spitfire' badge.



Typical ROC bunker site

Various insignia of the ROC



Nuclear Bomb Blast calculator to be used by an ROC observer in the event of a nearby bomb explosion. Bunkers were initially placed every 5 miles,- there were nearly 2000 such bunkers in the UK. Later, many were closed so they were about 10 miles apart. This was a huge government expenditure, little known to Jo Public. They all 'stood down' in 1991 when the Cpld War ended.

A rather unusual and unique request came from a certain Thomasina Carlyle who lives in Clun. This is her request: "I wonder if you might be able to help us. I am the project coordinator for ***The Cabinet of Secret Lives*** a film installation project being created by a Shropshire and Telford based charitable organisation called Arty Party. I understand that perhaps you or others in your society may be able to help us locate some old radio equipment for loan as props for a scene in the film we are making. The short films will be shown as part of an installation (an entrance display—Ed) at Theatre Severn from Feb - April 2020." We have responded and offered the loan of a range of older radio equipment which will be used in a filming session at the end of November in Shrewsbury; TDARS will be recognised in the event programme next spring at Theatre Severn.

And finally—a few photos to finish off this last 50th Anniversary Newsletter for 2019:-

24 GHz portable from summit of Brown Clee IO82QL



Brian 'UDX' sees the future . . .

Paul 'AQA's recent acquisition—Think BIG !

Another success for TDARS

